

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for February

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CARE for your trees. With the recent heavy winds, limbs and trees have toppled. Make sure to prune dead branches, mulch to suppress weeds and pest infestations, deep soak when the weather is hot, and protect shallow roots from lawnmowers. Call an arborist for help when in doubt.

INSPECT lawns for dandelions. When you see the yellow flower, snip it off to avoid the flower going to seed. Dig out the roots if possible but be aware that dandelions have long taproots. Do not put in the compost pile.

CHECK irrigation systems for broken or damaged pipes. Weeds and lawns often cover sprinkler heads. This is a good time to prepare and repair for spring.

WATER lawns and gardens as needed. This is the first February in decades that I've had to turn on sprinklers. Rain is not forecast until March. Global warming?

CUT a branch from flowering pear or peach trees to use as an indoor decoration. Pear trees are in full-bloom, peaches are in bud.

PLANT summer bulbs including gladiolus, cannas, dahlia, and caladium towards the end of the month as the soil dries.

-WALK barefoot on a blanket of soft moss to connect with Nature.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Bonica roses create a star-studded hedge.



Roses are the star performers of the garden.



Perennial cyclamen shine in a February landscape.



Soft pink roses flanked by cornflags and gladiolus.